

“*Olbiorchilus troglodytes troglodytes* (Linn.)”! Mr. Oberholser (‘Auk,’ 1902, p. 175) maintains that the section of the Wrens to which the British species belongs is not entitled to the name “*Anorthura*” assigned to it in the ‘Catalogue of Birds,’ because “*Anorthura*” is the strict equivalent of *Troglodytes*, and *Troglodytes* is properly applicable to the American group of Wrens typified by *Troglodytes aëdon*. He therefore proposes for *Motacilla troglodytes* of Linnæus the new generic name *Olbiorchilus*, and, in accordance with the trinomialism now in fashion, the British Wren becomes *Olbiorchilus troglodytes troglodytes*!

To this we reply that ordinary common sense is sufficient to teach us that the type of the genus *Troglodytes* of Vieillot was intended to be *Motacilla troglodytes* Linn., although Vieillot, when he first mentioned the genus in his ‘Oiseaux de l’Amérique Septentrionale’ (ii. p. 52), naturally enough, only referred to the American species. But on turning to Vieillot’s List of Genera in his ‘Analyse,’ it will be found that the “*Troglodyte*” of Buffon (= *Motacilla troglodytes* Linn.) is placed first in his list of species of *Troglodytes* and *Troglodytes aëdon* second. It cannot, surely, be denied that Vieillot has here pointed out what was his obvious intention in the plainest manner. We therefore venture to reject Mr. Oberholser’s view that *T. aëdon* is the typical species of the genus *Troglodytes*, and we shall continue to call our British Wren by its time-honoured name. Even if the contrary opinion be held to be correct according to the rules of nomenclature adopted by the A.O.U., we do not see the necessity of separating *Troglodytes aëdon* and its allied forms from *T. parvulus* generically.

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*Baleniceps at Khartum.*—Mr. W. A. Milner has kindly sent us a copy of a photograph of *Baleniceps rex*, lately taken from a specimen living in the Sirdar’s Palace Garden at Khartum. This bird, after being “winged,” was captured alive on the White Nile by Col. Sparkes and presented to Lady Wingate. It will be recollected that two living

examples of this wonderful form were brought home by Petherick in 1860, and lived for some time in the Zoological

Fig. 14.



*Balaniceps rex.*

Society's Gardens. We have not heard of any living specimens having been obtained since that date.

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*Birds on the Black Sea in Winter.*—Mr. Jack Chapman, writing from Souvoraski, at the north-east corner of the Black Sea, says:—"During the whole of the winter there are great quantities of Honey-Buzzards here, but what they feed on during the very cold weather I cannot understand. Crowds of Hen, Marsh, and Montagu's Harriers also spend the winter here, and are very interesting to watch. So far as I can make out, when the ground is soft they live on the ants and mole-crickets which are passing the winter just under the surface. When it is hard weather large quantities of Larks and other small birds collect in flocks near the river. It is then very interesting and exciting to watch the Harriers. They fly slowly up wind for two or three hundred yards; then turn round and come full speed down wind close to the ground, and as they dash through the crowds of small birds, catch any one that is unlucky enough to get directly in the way. If they fail to kill they repeat the performance. They hardly ever follow a bird—I presume, because they are not active enough on the wing to catch one if they did. However hard the weather, the Honey-Buzzards do not seem to trouble about the small birds; but I have seen them on occasions follow up a Duck that I have badly wounded and eat it when it has fallen, much to my disgust. During the autumn great flocks of Hobbies stay here for a time, but they all go away before the cold weather comes. There have been a pair of birds here the whole winter that I should very much like to know the name of. They are Geese, and the whole of the breast is quite red. They may be Ruddy Sheldrakes, but, from what I can remember of one I shot last year, that bird is no bigger than the ordinary Sheldrake, while this Goose, as I presume it to be, is considerably larger."

[The Goose is obviously *Anser ruficollis*, which is well known to visit the Caspian and Black Seas in winter, and occasionally to go as far south as Egypt.—EDD.]

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*Hybrid between Peacock and Guinea-fowl.*—We are indebted to the proprietors of 'The Field' for the use of the



annexed engraving, from a photograph taken by Mr. Payne of Aylesbury. It represents a very remarkable bird, now in the possession of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P., which is stated to have been bred between a white Peacock and a hen Guinea-fowl. The head and neck give incontrovertible

Fig. 15.



Hybrid between male Pea-fowl and female Guinea-fowl.

evidence of the Peacock sire, the white plumage of which is shown in the primaries of the wings. The rest of the plumage is that of the female parent, the Guinea-fowl. This bird was obtained from France by Mr. Castang, and kept by him until it had moulted in the usual season, before it was added to Mr. Rothschild's museum.

# THE IBIS.

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EIGHTH SERIES.

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XXXIII.—*A List of the Birds of Lucknow.* By WILLIAM JESSE, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. (Member of the Bombay Natural History Society).

[Continued from p. 490.]

No. 362. *LOCUSTELLA STRAMINEA.* *Turkestan Grasshopper-Warbler.*

According to the late Mr. George Reid, this Warbler frequents the grass and tamarisk-jungle of the Gogra near Byramghat, and similar low-lying grass-land on the banks of the Ganges, Goomti, and Sail, but is numerically rare and difficult to procure.

Mr. Reid writes:—"The only specimen I have, I captured alive after a good deal of trouble in trying to get a fairly distant shot at it. I had already blown two to pieces, when I saw the bird suddenly sneak into a small patch of 'doob' grass, and rushing up I caught it between the rooting runners of the grass and the ground, so tightly squeezed in that I had some difficulty in getting it out."

No. 363. \**ACROCEPHALUS STENTOREUS.* *Indian Great Reed-Warbler.*

Evidently not uncommon in the jheel district near Ajgaen, whence the Museum collector has obtained several specimens. Not improbably it has been overlooked. I think that it departs after the cold weather, but I am not sure.

No. 366. \*ACROCEPHALUS DUMETORUM. *Blyth's Reed-Warbler.*

A cold-weather visitant. All I know about it is that there are three skins (♂) in the Museum, one from Lucknow and two from Ajgaen.

No. 374. ORTHOTOMUS SUTORIUS. *Indian Tailor-bird.*

Phutki [H. Lucknow].

The Indian Tailor-bird is a common and permanent resident, being found in gardens, hedge-rows, topes, and jungle of all kinds; but, on the whole, I think that it prefers cover near human dwellings. It has a pretty note—hardly a song—which, to those that know it, discloses the whereabouts of the bird when it would otherwise be passed over. The nest is too well known to need description, but is almost always composed of two leaves only, and, according to my experience, is invariably lined with cotton-down. Brinjal, guavas, and crotons are favourite nesting-places. The breeding-season lasts from March to August, but the greater number of nests will, I think, be found in June and July.

The following are some of the dates in my diary:—

Mar. 31.	Nest in a croton-plant.	4 fresh eggs.	(Fyzabad.)
April 4.	Nest ready for eggs.		
May 26.	Nest building.	3 fresh eggs.	June 3.
June 8.	Nest in a croton-plant.	4 fresh eggs.	
July 17.	„	5	„
Aug. 10.	„	5	„

The eggs are of three, or possibly more, varieties: (a) white, with red blotches; (b) white, faintly speckled with red; (c) blue, blotched with red.

Average of 4 (blue) Lucknow eggs.

Average measurement	.....	·65'' × ·46''
Measurement of largest egg	.....	·69'' × ·48''
„ smallest egg	.....	·63'' × ·43''

Average of 9 (white) Lucknow eggs.

Average measurement	.....	·64'' × ·46''
Measurement of largest egg	.....	·70'' × ·48''
„ smallest egg	.....	·64'' × ·43''

No. 377. LUSCINIOLA MELANOPOGON. *Moustached Sedge-Warbler*.

I have never actually shot and handled this species, so will quote Reid's remarks:—

“The Moustached Sedge-Warbler is fairly common in all suitable localities, but only, I think, during the cold weather. In the low-lying grass-covered lands here and there on the banks of Goomti, in the grass and tamarisk-jungle or the semi-swamps about Byramghat, and in similar localities on the Khadir lands of the Oudh bank of the Ganges, it is not uncommon; while a few may sometimes be found in rushy swamps and nooks on such rivers as the Goomti and Sail. From its skulking habits, it is difficult to get a fair shot at it, unless at very close quarters, when it generally gets mangled almost beyond recognition.”

No. 381. CISTICOLA CURSITANS. *Rufous Fantail-Warbler*.

Phutki [H.]. Tic-tic [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Rufous Fantail-Warbler is very common in suitable localities, that is, where there is heavy grass-jungle. On the Cantonment Grass Farm it is particularly abundant, and there I have, on many occasions, found its nest. It breeds, I fancy, twice in the year, once in March or early April and again in the rains. The nest, a most delicate little cup, made of white vegetable fibre, down, and hair, is fastened to three or four stems of grass which fall over and partially hide it, making it by no means easy to discover. The eggs are three, four, or five, white or bluish-white, with red spots and speckles.

The following dates occur, amongst others, in my diary:—

Mar.	30.	Nest and 5 eggs (hard-set).
April	7.	„ 4 eggs (fresh).
June	25.	„ 4 „ „
„	25.	„ 5 „ „
July	14.	„ 4 eggs (deserted).
„	26.	„ 3 eggs (fresh).
„	26.	„ 1 egg (deserted).

Average measurement of 4 Lucknow eggs . . . . '62" × '45"



No. 382. \*FRANKLINIA GRACILIS. *Franklin's Wren-Warbler.*

I have only once observed this bird, having met with a pair on May 9, 1901. To Mr. Benjamin Aitken is really due the credit of adding it to our local fauna. We were walking through some babool-jungle, when he called my attention to a loud note coming from one of the trees, and asked me what it was. On my expressing my ignorance, he advised me to shoot the bird, which I did, after some difficulty. About half the tail-feathers were missing, but whether this was due to the shot or to moult, I do not know.

*Possibly*, though I hardly think so, this bird may be commoner than it appears to be, for these little Wren-Warblers are apt to be overlooked. As they seldom range far, it is possible that this species breeds here, and I shall keep a look out for its nest; but, up to date, I have never seen or heard of either nest or eggs that *might* belong to it.

No. 384. FRANKLINIA BUCHANANI. *Rufous-fronted Wren-Warbler.*

Phutki [H.]. Titmouse [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Rufous-fronted Wren-Warbler is not uncommon in grass-jungle, especially where there are ravines studded with babool. I have only once found the nest, a globular structure of grass, with a hole in the side near the top; it contained two eggs, whitish with faint red speckles.

Average measurement of 5 Lucknow eggs  $\cdot 60'' \times \cdot 46''$ .

No. 402. SYLVIA AFFINIS. *Indian Lesser White-throated Warbler.*

This bird is pretty generally spread over the Division in cold weather. It is particularly partial to the babool and grass-jungle along railway-lines. According to Reid, it is also common in the thorn- and dhak-jungles near Rahimabad. The same authority states that it avoids mango-topes.

No. 407. PHYLLOSCOPUS TRISTIS. *Brown Willow-Warbler.*

This little bird is common during the cold weather in babool-jungle, where it may be seen going about in small